

Abstract of the Disclosure

Signals obtained in capillary High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) are notoriously noisy. The signal can be improved by increasing the path length of the light passing through the sample stream, but increased path length decreases resolution (resolving N closely spaced peaks in the actual separation into N peaks of almost equal separation on the chromatogram. A novel approach is to utilize a number of photocell sensors lined up along a capillary through which the solution passes. In one embodiment of this invention, the flow of the solution is stopped with the solvent spike oriented with a particular photocell sensor. Then a single, continuous scan or multiple scans of a section of the quiescent solution may be taken and integrated, summed, or statistically correlated. In another embodiment, a solvent spike is detected and tracked. A set of photocell sensors is chosen at increments of time such that the leading photocell is at the solvent spike. The set of photocells is scanned repeatedly. The important information, contained in the integrated, summed or correlated signal, will increase the chromatographic signal relative to the noise information. In this way, the effective path length is increased without including any moving parts or significant loss of resolution.